

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Louis J. Hoffman (Reg. No. 38,918) on 04/23/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims:

Claim 14 (Currently amended) A data storage medium comprising ~~indicia of~~ instructions for a processor to perform a method for managing access to a file, via an electronic message, the method comprising:

- (a) displaying an electronic message window that includes a plurality of fields including a first field, a second field, and a third field;
- (b) creating an electronic message containing indicia of addresses and a reference to an electronic file, and generating file access authorizing data, by:
 - (1) accepting, in the first field, indicia identifying one or more addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted; and

(2) either or both:

(i) accepting, in the second field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of viewers authorized to view the file and generating associated file access authorization data; or

(ii) accepting, in the third field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of editors authorized to modify the file and generating associated file access authorization data;

(c) transmitting indicia of the electronic message to the addresses identifying by the indicia in the first field; and

(d) in response to a request for access to the file referenced in the electronic message by a viewer identified in the file access authorization data as authorized to view or modify the file, transmitting data of the file, separately from the electronic message, to the address associated with the requesting viewer.

Claim 22 (Currently amended) A data storage medium comprising ~~indicia of~~ instructions for a processor to perform a method for modifying operation of an electronic message program that, during normal operation, (1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field and (2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons, the method comprising:

(a) causing the electronic message program to display a message window that, further to the message recipient field of part (1), also includes a file viewer field and a file editor field; and

(b) causing the electronic message program to accept user input, into an electronic message formed using the message window, of indicia of addresses, and (i) for any addresses inputted into the file viewer field, generating authorization data signifying viewing privileges for a file identified in the file identification field, and (ii) for any addresses inputted into the file editor field, generating authorization data signifying editing privileges for the file.

Claim 23 (Currently amended) The data storage medium of claim 22 wherein the ~~indicia~~ ~~of~~ instructions reside within one or more dynamically linked library files.

Claim 25 (Currently amended) An electronic message system comprising a computer programmed with an electronic message program that, ~~during normal operation~~:

- (a) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field;
- (b) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more addresses entered into the message recipient field;
- (c) includes, in a location in the electronic message separate from the message recipient field, indicia designating whether addresses entered into the message recipient field are associated with message recipients having viewing privileges of a file entered into the file identification field and whether such addresses are associated with the message recipients having editing privileges; and

(d) stores authorization data, in a format and location suitable for controlling access to the file, corresponding to the indicia and signifying the identity of message recipients having viewing privileges for the file and the identity of message recipients having editing privileges for the file.

Claim 45 (Currently amended) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising ~~indicia of~~ instructions for a processor to transmit, in or with the message, a reference to the file that identifies a location of the file.

Claim 47 (Currently amended) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising ~~indicia of~~ instructions for a processor to display labels near respective fields of the electronic message window, wherein:

- (a) the label for the third field is "TO:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;
- (b) the label for the first field is "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;

and

- (c) the label for the second field is "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 48 (Currently amended) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising ~~indicia of~~ instructions for a processor to transmit data, upon request by a recipient having viewing or editing privileges of the file to an address identified by indicia recorded in the second or third field.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-25, 44-48, 55, and 56 are allowed.

The Examiner's reasons for allowance are stated in a previous Office Action and apply to all allowed claims.

Additionally, it is noted that certain claims are directed to statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101. Specifically, regarding claims 14, 22-24, and 45-48 directed to a "data storage medium comprising instructions", it is noted that the Specification and Applicant's remarks contain evidence that such a medium is intended to be a hardware medium such as RAM or hard disk media (Specification, paragraph [0022]; Remarks 07/06/06, p. 16). Regarding claim 15 directed to a system comprising means, it is noted that Applicant has disclaimed any argument that the claimed means encompass any software per se (Remarks 11/02/05, p. 18). Finally, regarding claim 25, as amended above the claim positively recites a functional hardware element (i.e., "a computer"), which is supported by the disclosure of the Specification.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSEPH R. MANIWANG whose telephone number is (571)272-3928. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JM

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2144